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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. for this photograph of a spring feeding into a receding McElroy Lake, Warren County, Kentucky in September 1989.

IN MEMORIAM

For the K.O.S., Faye Hensley Starr will forever be a part of "Brigadoon," the wooded treasure she and Dr. Russell Starr preserved as their gift to Kentuckians.

Faye died March 2, 1991. Her world has lost a unique combination of skilled professionalism, sophisticated connoisseur, tough mountaineer and vibrant woman.

Of the many community projects to which Faye contributed her talents, one was especially her own — the Intensive Care unit at the local hospital. The multitude of her interests and the benefits and pleasures which resulted for her and those around her could serve as a blueprint for the joy of living.

Her legacy to the K.O.S. is the memory of her infectious laughter; and always, "Brigadoon."

— Mrs. Marquita Gillenwater, Glasgow, Kentucky.

THE SPRING SEASON, 1991

ANNE L. STAMM AND BURT L. MONROE, JR.

The spring season was unusually mild. All three months — March, April and May — temperatures averaged above normal, with May as much as 7.4 degrees greater than normal. In fact, the month of May in Louisville was the warmest May since 1896, according to the Weather Bureau. Strangely enough, precipitation was below normal in Louisville, except for the month of March, when it was slightly above normal. Water was high in western Kentucky during the entire period. Lake #9 covered "several hundred acres, and there were many shallow pools and puddles in that area" (CP).

Migration was spotty and numbers were low. In spite of the warm weather, most transient species as well as the summer residents seemed to arrive on schedule. Shorebirds were fairly good this spring at the slough near Harrodsburg, Mercer County, where a Danville-area record of 12 species was noted on April 30 (FL). Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers were in reduced numbers, especially in the Louisville area. Strangely enough, it appeared to be a poor year for transient thrushes; however, Wood Thrushes were more in evidence in the Danville area than in recent years (FL). The warbler migration was sporadic but good on a few dates; in the Mammoth Cave area, at least 11 species were present on April 19 (KC, LR), and in northern Kentucky, May 4 seemed to be the peak (LMc).

Some of the more unusual species reported included the Pacific Loon, Cinnamon Teal, Surf Scoter, White-rumped Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Bewick's Wren and Brewer's Blackbird.

Abbreviations: BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BNP = Beargrass Nature Preserve, Louisville, Jefferson County; BerF = Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; CEL = Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County; CS = Caperton's Swamp (Riverfields Sanctuary), Louisville, Jefferson County; CCSP = Carter Caves State Park, Carter County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; ChL = Chaney Lake, Warren County; CSL = Cool Springs Lake, Ohio County; Dan = Danville area (Boyle and southern

Mercer counties); DD = Dix Dam, Mercer County; EBPP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; FCRA = Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski County; Han = Hanson, Hopkins County; KBRC = Kentucky Bird Records Committee; KD = Kentucky Dam, Marshall County; KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society; KyL = Kentucky Lake; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; LBar = Lake Barkley; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; LenP = Lentz's Pond, Harrod's Creek, Louisville, Jefferson County; Mad = Madisonville area, Hopkins County; MCNP = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson County; MayB = Mayfair Basins, Louisville, Jefferson County; McA = McAlpine Dam (Falls of the Ohio), Louisville, Jefferson County; McEL = McElroy Lake, Warren County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; NBSP = Natural Bridge State Park, Powell County; PHSM = Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Cool Spring, Ohio County; RNWR = Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; SciH = Science Hill, Pulaski County; Som = Somerset, Pulaski County.

Loons through Herons — A single Common Loon reached CRL on March 15 (FB), whereas five returned to LPew on March 17, (KC, LR) and preceded small numbers (1-4) during April and early May from KD (MS, BM, MM, KC, AW) to LPew (JH), Camp Ernst, Boone County (KCa, JCa, LMc), MCFH (FB) and Green River Lake, Taylor County (JEL), with the latest (3 birds) above KD and (2) at LBar on May 15 (MS). The *Pacific Loon* photographed on December 19, 1990 on KyL was accepted by the KBRC and established Kentucky's first record; a second (or the same) Arctic/Pacific Loon in first basic plumage was above KD on May 3 (MS, BM, MM), one on May 4 in the same location (KC, AW), and again on May 13 (S, FS). The first Pied-billed Grebe reported was a single bird at LenP on March 15 (MS), 24 were noted in the Ohio River basin, Louisville, Jefferson County, March 26 (LR), and 1-2 were seen at LPew (JH), Dan (FL), KD (JB, PB), and Mayfield Creek, Carlisle County (CP), between March 27 and May 9; the species remains scarce. Few Horned Grebes were reported: 4, Ohio River, Louisville, March 13 (LR); 3, CRL, March 15 (FB); 1, McA, Louisville, March 15 (MS); and 11, McEL, March 16 (MS). Fewer Double-crested Cormorants were reported this spring than last season, with 14 as the highest number at Shippingport Island on April 17 (LR), where 5 were first sighted on March 22 (LR); single birds were seen at SWMA, April 5 (KC, LR) and KyL, April 13 (JB, PB), and 2 were recorded at Ash Pond, EMPP, March 28 (KCa, LMc). Two American Bitterns were seen flying over a marsh, PHSM, April 5 (LR); 1 same location, April 8 and 20 (KC). Great Blue Herons were noted in Dan through May 4 (no number given, FL); 1, River Road area, Louisville, March 15 (JB, PB); 1 LPew, March 19 (JH); 12, LBL, April 13 (JB, PB); and 8, LBL, May 13 (S, FS). A colony of 30 nests was counted at New Concord, Calloway County, March 11 (CP, J. T. Erwin). A Great Egret was seen in Dan area as early as March 30 (FL); 5 at SWMA on April 5 (KC, LR); 1 at MCFH on April 6, 10, 20, 21 (FB); 1, near a pond on Oakhill Drive (near Oakwood), Som, April 7-8 (JEL); 3, near Caneyville, Grayson County, April 8 (KC); 2, in flooded field near EBPP, Boone County, April 13 (KCa, *vide* LMc); 2, at ChL, April 30 (MS). Single Snowy Egrets were noted south of Bowling Green, Warren County, April 30 (MS) and at BWMA, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). The only Little Blue Heron reported was one in pied plumage at BWMA, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). A Cattle Egret was observed at McEL, March 30 (RH) and noted there the following day (BPB, *vide* RH); several were

seen in western Fulton County, May 4 (MS, BM, MM); and 50+ in Carlisle County, May 9 (CP). Green-backed Herons were in lower numbers than normal at MCFH (FB); the species arrived later than usual, and a single bird was first observed at Hematite Lake, LBL, April 13 (JB, PB), 2 at LPew, April 17 (JH); CS, April 23 (MS), 1 at BerF, April 24 (JB, PB); and 3 at CS, May 5 (JB, PB). An adult with 3 young birds out of the nest on a tree branch at BPS, May 28, was protesting the presence of a raccoon (KC); scarce in Dan, only one was seen (FL). Thirty-three Black-crowned Night-Herons had arrived at Shippingport Island, Louisville, March 23 (LR); 1 was seen carrying nesting material at McA, Louisville, April 25 (MS); 99 noted at McA on April 26 (LR); 1 observed across from Hardy Slough, Henderson County, April 28 (LR); and 50 counted at McA on May 24 (S, FS).

Waterfowl — There were 11 White-fronted Geese observed on the CSL, March 3 (BPB, Joyce Porter). A few Snow Geese were still present: one, white morph, near Petersburg, Boone County, March 9 (LMc); and 1, blue morph, at McEL, March 16 (MS). With few exceptions, puddle ducks were in low numbers. Sixteen Green-winged Teal were in the Dan area on March 15 (FL); and 4, on River Road area, Louisville, March 15 (JB, PB). Blue-winged Teal began arriving on March 4 with 4 birds at McEL (JB, PB); few at McEL, March 9 (MS); 3 at LPew, March 22 and April 17 (JH); 2 at Som, March 18 (JEL); many at SWMA, April 5 (KC, LR); 57 at McEL and 2 at ChL, April 30 (MS); and 2 at Bondurant, Fulton County, May 25 (CP). A male and female *Cinnamon Teal* were observed with 60+ Blue-winged Teal, northeast of Owensboro, Daviess County, April 6 (MS, BM, Tanya Stinson); accepted by the KBRC. Northern Shovelers included 2 at LPew, March 11 (JH); 6 at LenP, March 15 (LR); 10 at Dan, March 15 (FL); 7 at McEL, April 30 (MS); and 3 at Bondurant, Fulton County, May 25 (CP). The highest count of Gadwalls was 400 at Bailey Hollow, Calloway County, March 19 (CP), and 4 were still at McEL, April 30 (MS). Nine American Wigeon were present at Hays Kennedy Park, Louisville, March 20 (LR). Diving Ducks were slightly more numerous. Few Canvasbacks were reported: 1 at McEL, March 9 (MS); several at McEL, March 16 (MS). There were approximately 70 Redheads at CRL on March 15 and 16 (FB). One hundred and twenty Ring-necked Ducks were counted at LPew, March 15 (JH); and 75+ were present at Som, March 18 (JEL). A male Greater Scaup was discovered at Ash Pond, EBPP, March 22 (KCa, LMc); and 1 male was at McEL, March 23 (RH). A total of 58 Lesser Scaup was noted in the Ohio River basin, Louisville, March 13 (LR); 35 observed in Mercer County, March 21 (FL); and 1 male was seen at McA, Louisville, April 25 (MS). A male Lesser Scaup was observed at MCFH on May 11, 13, 15, 29, 30 and 31, while a female Scaup sp. had been present at another pond at MCFH on May 29, 30 and 31 (FB). It was interesting to find 4 Surf Scoters at Lexington Reservoir, Fayette County, April 21 (M. Flynn *vide* BPB); also, there was a first-spring male on a private lake in northwestern Hardin County, April 30 (MS, photograph taken), and according to the property owner, the bird was present several days prior to April 30 (MS). These are indeed late records for Kentucky. A few Buffleheads were reported: 3-9 at LPew, March 11-April 2 (JH); 8 in Mercer County, March 21 (FL); and a female with 3 Red-breasted Mergansers as late as May 15 at KD (MS, BM, MM). Three Hooded Mergansers were seen at LenP, March 15 (JB, PB); 3 were at Dan, April 13 (FL); and 1 female was at EBPP, Boone County, May 11 (LMc, KCa, TS). Fourteen Red-breasted Mergansers were present at LPew, March 17 (LR); 3 at KD,

May 3-4 (MS, BM, MM); 2 at Dan, May 4 (FL); 2 at KD, May 11 (JB, PB); and 3 at KD, May 15 (MS, BM, MM). Up to 35 Ruddy Ducks were seen at LPew, March 11-April 10 (JH, LR); several were present at McEL, March 16 (MS), with 8 there April 20 (MS); and 1 female was at MayB, March 22-23 (MS).

Hawks through Cranes — Although 20 Black Vultures were present during February, few were reported in March: singles were seen in southeastern Jefferson County, March 17 (JB, PB), and at NBSP, April 20 (JB, PB). Ospreys were reported from five locations: 1, BerF, March 29 (MS); 2, MCFH, April 6 and 10 (FB); 1, near Petersburg, Boone County, April 14 (LMc); 1, MCFH, April 20, 21, with 2 there, April 28 and 1, May 3 (FB); 1, CEL, May 4 (LMc); and 1, Dan, May 2 (FL). Only one Mississippi Kite was reported and that was at Wickliffe, Ballard County, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). Two Bald Eagle nests with young were seen in LBL in April (WB); details will be included in the next Nesting Season Report. Northern Harriers were reported from only two counties: 1, Short Creek, Grayson County, March 20 (KC); 15, PHSM, April 5 (KC); and 3, PHSM, May 4 (BM, MM, MS). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks continue to be in low numbers. Sharp-shinned hawks sighted included 1 at Burlington, Boone County, March 15 (JCa, KCa); 2 at Cave City, Barren County, March 24; and 1 there, April 1 (MStu); 1 at NBSP, April 20 (JB, PB); and 1 in Creason Park, Louisville, April 21 (JEL). Single Cooper's were seen at LBL, March 17 and southeastern Jefferson County, April 13 (JB, PB); 7, Dan (FL). Red-shouldered Hawks included 1, LBL, March 9 (JB, PB); and 2, Loch Mary, Earlington, Hopkins County, April 30 (JH). No Broad-winged Hawk flights were observed; the species was fairly wide-spread, but in low numbers. Records include the following: 1, Oil Center, Pulaski County, April 7 (JEL); 1, EBPP and Burlington, Boone County, April 13 and 18 (LMc); 1, McEL, April 20 (MS); 3, LBL, Trigg County, April 21 (CP); 2, MCNP, Edmonson County, April 22 (MStu); 1, Walton's Mountain, Pulaski County, April 27 (JEL); 3, Penny-rile State Park, Christian County, May 8 (BM); and 2, Walton's Mountain, May 15 (JEL), but only 2 were reported at Dan during period (FL). A good study of a Red-tailed Hawk of the race *krideri* was made in Mercer County, March 15 (FL, WK). A dark phase Rough-legged Hawk was noted in Mercer County, March 15 (FL); at PHSM, 1 was noted March 20 (MS, BM), 5 April 5 (KC), and 3 April 20 (KC). Quite unusual was the sighting of an adult Golden Eagle at CRL, April 21 — good documentation (FB). A Peregrine Falcon was noted at Standiford Airport, Louisville, May 31 (BM). Two Wild Turkeys were seen at MCNP, April 19 (LR); 1 reported near Oil Center, Pulaski County, May 11 (JEL); and 1 was seen west of Leitchfield, Grayson County, May 15 (MS, BM). Only a few American Coots were present in Dan area (FL); highest count at LPew was 92 on March 5 and 22, and one was still present on May 7 (JH). A few Sandhill Cranes were still moving northward in March: 30, at BPS, March 5 (KC); 8, BPS, March 20 (KC); and 2 in eastern Jefferson County, March 26 (FS, F. Williams).

Shorebirds — Shorebird migration was fairly good this spring at the slough near Harrodsburg, Mercer County, where a Dan-area record of 12 species was noted, April 30 (FL). A Black-bellied Plover was seen at RNWR, April 1 (CP); and several were in western Fulton County, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). Lesser Golden-Plovers were widespread: 2, McEL, March 16 (MS); 3, Hailwell, Hickman County, and 40+, western Fulton

County, March 19 (MS); 19, RNWR, April 1 (CP); and 5, McEL, April 14 (JB, PB). Semipalmated Plovers were also widespread: 11, McEL, April 27 (JB, PB); up to 8, Dan, April 30-May 25 (FL); 17 at Lick Creek, Boone County, May 11 (LMc, JCa, KCa, TS); and up to 12 at MCFH, May 4-31 (FB). An adult Killdeer was near its nest with 4 eggs (eggs hatched, April 4), SciH, March 23 (JEL). Up to 25+ Greater Yellowlegs were noted at McEL, March 16-April 30 (MS); several at Lake #9, Fulton County, March 19 (MS); 80+ at RNWR, April 1 (CP); 1 at Elk Creek, Hopkins County, April 24 (JH); 1 at MCFH, May 4 (FB); and in Dan through May 7 (FL). Fair numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs were present with 200+ at McEL, March 16 through April (MS); 150+ at Lake #9, Fulton County, March 19 (MS, BM); 60+ at RNWR, April 1 (CP); 34 in Dan, April 24 (FL); 2 below Wolf Creek Dam, Russell County, April 28 (JEL); 150+ at McEL and 100+ at ChL, April 30 (MS); several at Lake #9, May 4 (MS, BM, MM); and 4 at MSFH, May 3, with 1-2 there May 4-13 (FB). A single Solitary Sandpiper was fairly early east of McEL, March 18 (MS, BM); other records included 8, RNWR, April 1 (CP); 3, LPew, April 10 (JH); 1, LPew, April 17 (JH); 2, Elk Creek, Hopkins County, April 24 (JH); and 1, MCFH, May 4 and 2, on May 10 (FB). A single Willet was noted at ChL, April 30 (MS), but a flock of 45+ at KD, May 3 was impressive (MS, BM, MM). A Spotted Sandpiper was early at KD, March 13 (JB, PB); other reports included 2, McA, Louisville, April 9 (MS); 1, Towhead Island, Louisville, May 5 (JB, PB); 2, LPew, May 7 (JH); and 1-3, MCFH, April 20-May 15 (FB). Semipalmated Sandpipers did not arrive until May: 1, western Fulton County, May 4 (MS, BM, MM); 5, Flaherty, Meade County, May 10 (RH); 4, MCFH, May 10, 13 (FB); Dan, May 7-25, with a maximum of 40 on May 25 (FL); and 3-4, MCFH, May 29-31 (FB). Six Western Sandpipers were carefully identified with Least Sandpipers and Dunlin at McEL, April 20 (MS, BPB *et. al.*); 1 was at Dan, April 30 (FL); several were at MCFH, with 3 on May 10 and 15, 4 on May 29 and 30, and 3 on May 31 (FB). The flock of 200+ Least Sandpipers at RNWR, April 1 was noteworthy (CP); other sightings included 2, McEL, April 20 (MS); 3, MCFH, April 28, and 5-11 on May 4-15 (FB); and up to 6, Dan, through May 21 (FL). A few of the uncommon White-rumped Sandpipers appeared: 1, near Harrodsburg, Mercer County, May 7 (FL); and 3-5, MCFH, May 29-31 (FB). A fair number of Pectoral Sandpipers were present: Dan, March 8-May 10, with a maximum 33 on March 25 (FL); 42, McEL, March 9, and 111, McEL, March 18 (MS); 100+, RNWR, April 1 (CP); 11, SWMA, April 5 (KC, LR); and 20, McEL, April 14 (JB, PB). A Dunlin was first reported at McEL, April 20 (MS); 5 others were noted in a flock of Short-billed Dowitchers at Flaherty, Meade County, May 10 (RH); and 1 was seen at Lick Creek, Boone County, May 11 (LMc, JCa, KCa, TS). A fair flight of Short-billed Dowitchers occurred, with 60 at Flaherty, Meade County, May 10 (RH); unprecedented numbers were in the Dan area, April 30-May 10, with up to 27 on May 10, and all appeared to be the race *hendersoni* (FL). A single Long-billed Dowitcher, a presumed female in good color and closely studied, was at Dan, April 30, first spring report for the region (FL). Three American Woodcock were observed at BNP, Louisville, March 4 (JB, PB); 2 were at KD, March 9 (JB, PB); and 1 was seen and heard calling near Gilbertsville, Marshall County, May 3-4 (MS, BM, MM). A nest with an adult incubating 4 eggs was discovered three miles NNW of Graefenburg, eastern Shelby County, April 15 (Kerry Prather, *vide* BPB). Common Snipe were noted at McEL, March 4-May 3 (MS, JB, PB), with a maximum of 14 on March 16 (MS); other

records included 1-3, LPew, April 2-May 7 (JH); Dan, through May 4 (FL); and 12, RNWR, April 1 (CP).

Gulls and Terns — Some 300+ Bonaparte's Gulls were present on LBar at the mouth of Energy Bay, March 2 (BPB); other records included 5, McEL, March 18 (MS, BM, MM); 20, FCRA, March 22 (JEL); 60+, LBar N of U.S. 68, Trigg County, March 25 (CP); 17, FCRA, April 1 (JEL); 2, Louisville, April 14 (MS); 5, DD, April 20 (FL); 15, MCFH, April 20, 30 on April 21 (FB); 1, DD, April 24 (FL); and 1, MCFH, May 5 (FB). There were 45 Ring-billed Gulls noted at Eva Bandman Park, 75 near Lentz's Pond, and 166 at Hays Kennedy Park, Louisville, March 13 (LR); the species was also present at MCFH, April 19-28, with a peak of 65, April 21 (FB); and several were at DD through May 4 (FL). A single adult Herring Gull was still present at MCFH, April 21 (FB). A few Caspian Terns were reported: 2, McA, Louisville, April 11 (MS); 2, MCFH, April 12 and May 4 (FB); and 1, DD, May 25 (FL). A single Common Tern was seen at KD, April 13 (JB, PB); 1 was at MCFH, April 20 (FB); and 3 were fairly late at DD, May 25 (FL). Forster's Terns were slightly more numerous: singles, DD and CEL, April 20 (FL, LMc, respectively); 2, MCFH, April 20 (FB); several, KD, May 3 (MS, BM, MM); approximately 50, MCFH, May 4 (FB); and 29 McA, May 5 (LR). Also, *Sterna* sp., 20+ KD, May 3, mostly Forster's with at least 2 Common (MS, BM, MM); and Forster's still present at MCFH, May 15 (FB). Six Least Terns were noted at McA, May 5 (LR).

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — Cuckoos were scarce and arrived rather late. A Single Black-billed Cuckoo was heard calling at Dan, May 7 (FL); and single Yellow-billed were first noted at Mad, April 30 (JH) and at CS, May 2 (MS). A nest of the Great Horned Owl with two young was found at Owensboro, Daviess County, March 30 (KC, LR); 6, with two nests located, in Dan, April 20 (FL); and 2, at Brown Park, Louisville, May 1 (JB, PB). Short-eared Owls were not as numerous this spring at PHSM: 3-7, March 20-April 20 (KC); 3 March 20 (MS, BM, MM); and 1 May 4 (MS, BM, MM). The earliest Common Nighthawks reported were singles at Prospect, Jefferson County, April 14 (FM) and at Louisville, April 28 (MS). A Chuck-will's-widow was heard at BPS as early as April 6 (KC); 1 at Mad, April 15 (JH); and 1 at Han, April 18 (B. West, *vide* JH). A Whip-poor-will had returned to Han by March 21 (B. West, *vide* JH); 1 was at BPS, April 6 (KC); and 1 was heard at Mad, April 8 (JH). A flock of Chimney Swifts was first recorded in eastern Louisville, April 10 (MS). A male Ruby-throated Hummingbird arrived at Murray, Calloway County, April 6 (WB); other records included 3 males, BPS, April 16 (KC); 2 males, 1 female, Murray, Calloway County, April 18 (WB); 1, MCNP, April 20 (MS); 1 male, SciH, April 24 (JEL); and 1 male, Han, April 24 (B. West, *vide* JH). Red-headed Woodpeckers were present at KD, April 12-13, and numerous on the latter date (JB, PB). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (1 to 3) were seen at MCNP, KD, LBL and BNP, April 7-22 (JB, PB).

Flycatchers through Nuthatches — Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were found at Pennyryle Forest State Resort Park, May 11 (CMo, Dean Hinson, David Chiles) and at BNP, May 13 (MS). Eastern Wood-Pewees showed up at Carter Caves State Resort Park, Carter County, April 28 (MS) and at Loch Mary, Earlington, Hopkins County, April 30 (JH). Willow Flycatchers were noted at Petersburg, East Bend, Boone County, and at three Henry County locations during May (LMc); and 2-4 were at

MCFH, May 10-31 (FB). Although Eastern Phoebe were noted at MCNP, March 4 (JB, PB), five with 3 nests (one nest with 4 eggs) was sighted there, April 26 (MStu). Great Crested Flycatchers were first noted at Han, April 6 (B. West, *vide* JM); at MCNP, April 20 (MS); and at Mad, April 22 (JH). Eastern Kingbirds were not reported until April 13 at LBL (JB, PB) and at MCNP, April 20 (MS). A nice flock of 200+ Horned Larks was seen in southern Warren County, March 9 (MS). Purple Martins had returned fairly early at Leitchfield, Grayson County, March 9 (AW, *vide* KC); other records included 1, McEL, March 18 (MS, BM); 1, LBL, March 18 (MS, BM); 3, LPew, March 22 (JH); and 50, KyL, April 12 (JB, PB). There was a good flight of Tree Swallows: 15 had arrived at LBL, March 18 (MS); 300 at MCFH, March 29 (FB), and about 250 on April 5 (FB); 63, near LPew, April 10 (JH); approximately 150, MCFH, April 20, with nesting noted in four new Bluebird boxes by May 4 (FB); and 37 at LPew, April 22 (JH). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow was rather early at Towhead Island, Louisville, March 23 (MS); the species also noted at BerF, March 29 (MS). The Bank and Cliff Swallows were first recorded at McEL, April 20 (MS) and at Dan on the same date (FL). A Barn Swallow returned to McEL, March 18 (MS, BM); and 2 were at FCRA, March 28 (JEl). Four Fish Crows were heard calling along lower Ohio River, BWMA (also two others in Fulton County), March 19 (MS, BM). A few Red-breasted Nuthatches were found: 2 BerF, March 20 (MS, BM) and March 21 (JB, PB); Carter Caves State Resort Park, Carter County, April 27 (KOS); and 1, Murphy's Pond, Hickman County, May 4 (MS, BM, MM).

Wrens through Shrikes — Carolina Wrens were doing well with peak numbers in Dan (FL) and good numbers in Louisville (S). A Bewick's Wren was discovered in Cave City, April 10 (MStu); 1, Leitchfield, April 17, also observed occasionally throughout the period (AW, KC). A single House Wren was heard singing at Louisville, April 9 (MS); the species was obviously increasing in former Bewick's Wrens haunts in Dan (FL). There was little evidence of kinglet migration. Very few Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen in Dan (FL), but 6 were at MCNP, March 24 (JB, PB). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was heard singing in east Louisville, March 9 (S); other records included 2, KyL, April 12 (JB, PB); 4, LBL, April 13 (JB, PB); Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, April 13 (FM); 24, Hopkinsville, Christian County, April 14 (JH); and 1, BWMA, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher returned to Louisville, April 4 (MS); 2 were building a nest, just east of Henderson, Henderson County, April 6 (MS); and 2 with a nest were reported at MCNP, April 19 (MStu). Fair numbers of Eastern Bluebirds were found in Calloway County (WB), Prospect area, Oldham County (FK, Sr.) and Grayson County (KC). The Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush and Hermit Thrush were all present but in low numbers. It was encouraging that the Wood Thrush was more in evidence in the knobs in Dan than in recent years (FL); the species, however, remains scarce in the Louisville area (S). Migration of the American Robin was noted at SciH, March 6 when 300+ were seen (JEl). Numbers of Gray Catbirds continue to be in low numbers. The Brown Thrasher arrived on schedule in eastern Louisville, March 27 (S, FS), and at Prospect, Jefferson County, March 29 (FM). Some 30+ Water Pipits had returned to McEL, March 9 (MS); 300+ were there, March 18 (MS, BM); and a few remained, May 3 (MS). Cedar Waxwings were observed throughout the period at Cave City, Barren County (MStu); none was seen prior to May 4, when a few were noted along the Mississippi

River in Fulton County, but the following week, good numbers were in Louisville, increasing in the next few weeks of May (MS). Loggerhead Shrike records were few: 4, along Route 155 in northern Spencer County, March 5 (MS); and 1, Hart County, May 22 (MStu).

Vireos through Warblers — A White-eyed Vireo, singing, east of Henderson, Henderson County, April 6, was fairly early (MS, BM); another was sighted at Mad, April 9 (JH). Two Bell's Vireos were seen and heard at the nesting site of previous years, PHSM, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). The following Solitary Vireos were reported: 1, MCNP, April 19 (KC, LR); 2, NBSP, April 22 (JB, PB); and several singing at Pine Mountain State Resort Park, Bell County, May 25-27 (MS). Yellow-throated Vireos began arriving in April with 5 at LBL, April 12-13 (JB, PB); 1 at MCNP, April 17 (S, FS); and at Mad, April 23 (JH). Warbling Vireos were first recorded along River Road east of Louisville, April 17 (MS); and at Mad, April 19 (JH). A Philadelphia Vireo was fairly early at KyL, April 12 (JB, PB); 1 was at BerF, April 24 (JB, PB); and 1 was recorded at CS, May 10 (JB, PB). A Red-eyed Vireo was heard at MCNP, April 17 (S, FS), and in southwestern Jefferson County, April 18 (MS); other reports included 1, MCNP, April 19 (KC, LR); and Mad, April 22 (JH). Warbler migration was good with most species being represented, but numbers were low. Single Blue-winged Warblers arrived at LBL, April 13 (JB, PB) and at MCNP, April 14 (JB, PB). Two male Golden-winged Warblers were heard singing at CS, May 2 (MS); and 1 was heard on BWMA, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). A Tennessee Warbler was reported at LBL, April 13 (JB, PB); at Mad, April 18 (JH); and 2 were noted at NBSP, April 20 (JB, PB). The Orange-crowned Warbler, usually rare in spring, was found at five locations: 1, NBSP, April 20 (JB, PB); 1, CS, April 25 (MS); 1, at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Floyd County, April 25 (BM, MM); 1, along the shore of CRL, April 27 (MS, BM, MM); and 1, BNP, April 28 (JB, PB). Two Nashville Warblers had arrived at LBL, April 13 (JB, PB); 1 was at BNP, April 19 (JB, PB); Mad, April 24-26, but there were no records in May (JH); and the species was noted in Carter Caves State Resort Park, April 28 (MS). A Northern Parula was early at Cave City, March 28-April 1, equaling the previous early record of March 28, 1990 (MStu); there were "many" at LBL, April 13 (JB, PB); 4 at MCNP, April 14 (JB, PB); and 6 at NBSP, April 20 (JB, PB). The Yellow Warbler was first observed at CS, April 16 (MS); and at BNP, April 19 (JB, PB). A Magnolia Warbler was heard singing in a Crescent Hill yard, Louisville, May 10 (MS). Several Cape May Warblers were noted at BNP, May 5 (MS, JB, PB). It was quite a treat to see a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Carter Caves, May 4 (JB, PB). Two Yellow-rumped Warblers were still present at Anchorage, Jefferson County, May 12 (BM). A male Black-throated Green Warbler was singing at Seneca Park, Louisville, April 6 (MS); other early records were at LBL (JB, PB) and at Cave Hill Cemetery (FM), April 13. The first reported Blackburnian Warbler was a singing bird in northwestern Hardin County, April 30 (MS), but others showed up at Carter Caves, May 4 (JB, PB) and at Mad, May 5 (JH). The Yellow-throated Warbler was present in Henderson County, April 5 (MS, BM). Two Pine Warblers were present at LBL as early as March 18 (MS, BM); 2 were at BerF, March 21 (JB, PB); and the species was present at Mad, April 4 (JH). Prairie Warblers and Palm Warblers arrived by mid-April, while Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers arrived at Louisville by April 28 (JB, PB); Cerulean Warblers were in low numbers but reported from the following counties: Edmonson,

Jefferson, Powell (JB, PB), Carter (MS, S, KOS), and Rowan (MS). Three Black-and-white Warblers returned to MCNP by April 7 (JB, PB). Six Prothonotary Warblers were present at LBL, April 13 (JB, PB). The Worm-eating Warbler was noted at LBL, April 13; MCNP, April 14 (JB, PB); and along River Road, Louisville, April 16 (MS). An Ovenbird was unusually early at BNP, March 19, and established an early state date (BSH). The Northern Waterthrush was recorded at Brown Park, Louisville, April 28 (JB, PB). A Louisiana Waterthrush was present in Henderson County, April 6 (MS, BM). The Kentucky Warbler showed up at Brazzle Bridge, Hopkins County, April 24 (JH). The rare Connecticut Warbler was singing at Oil Center, Pulaski County, May 11 (JEL, BPB). The uncommon Mourning Warbler was seen at Mad, May 8 (JH). The Common Yellowthroat was first reported in Hopkins County, April 17 (JH). A Hooded Warbler arrived in Hopkins County, April 9 (JH). A male Wilson's Warbler was singing at BNP, May 13 (MS). A Canada Warbler was present NBSP, May 3 (JB, PB). The earliest report of the Yellow-breasted Chat was 1, Mad, April 27 (JH).

Tanagers through Sparrows — Scarlet Tanagers were fairly widespread with the earliest at LBL, April 13 (JB, PB); it was an exceptional year in Dan, with a maximum of 20 on May 10 (FL). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks did not seem as numerous this spring; only one was noted during the period at BPS (KC). A single Blue Grosbeak had returned to BWMA by May 4 (MS, BM, MM) and to Han by May 6 (B. West, *vide* JH). The Indigo Bunting had reached MCNP by April 14 (JB, PB). There were few reports on the Dickcissel: 1, Union, Boone County, mid-April-early May (Janet Barnett, *vide* LMc); and several singing, BWMA, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). Few Vesper Sparrows were reported, but the species was present March 22-April 5 (MS, CP, KC, LR). Several Savannah Sparrows were seen at McEL and ChL, March 16 (MS); many were at CEL, April 30-May 10 (LMc). Grasshopper Sparrows were not recorded until May 3 at McEL (MS). Fox Sparrows were present at Mad and BerF, March 22 and 29, respectively (MS). White-throated Sparrows lingered at Mad, May 11 (JH). White-crowned Sparrows were present to May 11 at LBL (JB, PB). Dark-eyed Juncos were present at Mad, April 16 (JH), and at the University of Louisville Campus, Louisville, April 23 (BM).

Bobolinks through Finches. — Several Bobolinks were seen at BWMA and Fulton County, May 4 (MS, BM, MM). Fifteen Rusty Blackbirds were noted in Fulton County, March 19 (MS, BM); and 31 were at CS, April 4 (MS). A flock of Brewer's Blackbirds were seen east of McEL, March 16 (MS, BPB); several were at McEL, March 18 (MS, BM); and 29 were present at Hailwell, Hickman County, March 19 (MS, BM). The Orchard Oriole was not reported until April 17 (MS). A Northern Oriole was heard singing at Prospect, Jefferson County, April 7 (CM), and heard and seen in the same location, April 8 (FM, CM); the April 7 date ties our earliest state date. Few Purple Finches were observed: 8 males, LBL, March 18 (MS, BM); up to 20, BPS, March 20-April 8 (KC); and 2, MCNP, March 24 (JB, PB). A male and female House Finch were building a nest on nesting shelf under a porch, SciH, April 13, with 5 eggs on April 27 and fledged young on May 27 (JEL). A few Pine Siskins remained: 5, southwestern Jefferson County, March 24 (DS); and up to 6, BPS, March 27-April 24 (KC). Five female Evening Grosbeaks were noted at Murray, Calloway County, April 18 (WB).

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RETURN OF THE WOODBURN LAKES, 1989; PART II.

BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR. AND GARY BOGGS

MARbled GODWIT. *Limosa fedora*. On 29 April, 4 birds were observed with the flock of Willets reported above. This represents Kentucky's first record documented with photographs. The fifth record overall, the first record of more than one bird, and the first record for sc Ky.

RUDDY TURNSTONE. *Arenaria interpres*. This relatively rare shorebird was observed only at McElroy as follows: in spring, three birds in breeding plumage 20-24 May; and in fall, 1 juvenile 2-10 September. Wilson (1962, 1969) reported this species only five times at the lakes, all in spring. Thus, the fall record apparently represents the first for sc Ky.

RED KNOT. *Calidris canutus*. This rare transient was observed in fall on 2, 4, 8, 10 and 12 September (3j on most dates, 1j on the latter). Wilson (1962, 1969) reported this species from the region on a few dates in spring (the state's only spring records). Thus these observations represent the first for sc Ky in fall.

SANDERLING. *Calidris alba*. This species was observed at McElroy in fall on 22 August (2-3a), and then 2-16 September (peak of 6-8j on 10 September). Wilson (1962, 1969) did not report the Sanderling during fall migration, thus these latter observations apparently represent the first for sc Ky in fall.

SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER. *Calidris pusilla*. This common peep was observed on both lakes during both spring and fall migration. In spring it was seen primarily at McElroy from 7 May (2+ birds) through 6 June (5 birds) with peak counts there of 400+ birds on 20 May and 425+ on 29 May. In fall the species was recorded from 22 July (10a at Chaney) to 16 September (3j at McElroy and 1j at Chaney) with peak counts of 55 (most or all adults) at McElroy on 6 August and 30-35+ (most or all juveniles) at McElroy 27 August-8 September.

WESTERN SANDPIPER. *Calidris mauri*. This very rare spring transient was observed at McElroy on 30 April when three birds were found in the company of a flock of Semipalmated Plovers (2 of the 3 birds photographed) for an exceptional spring record and the first for the state well-documented by photos. The Western Sandpiper is much more numerous during fall migration, and birds were observed at the lakes from 22 July (1a-at Chaney) to 16 September (3j at McElroy, 5j at Chaney)

with a peak count of ca. 35 birds (most or all juveniles) at McElroy on 4 September.

LEAST SANDPIPER. *Calidris minutilla*. This small peep was observed on both lakes during both spring and fall migration. In spring it was recorded from 29 April (6 birds at McElroy, 2 birds at Chaney) to 6 June (1 bird at McElroy) with a peak count of at least 250 birds at McElroy on 5 May. In fall the species was recorded from 16 July (5a at Chaney) to 16 September (30 at McElroy; most or all juveniles) and 7 October (20 at Chaney; most or all juveniles) with a peak count of 75-100 or more birds (many juveniles) at McElroy 2-10 September.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. *Calidris fuscicollis*. This relatively late spring shorebird was observed only at McElroy during spring migration from 14 May (3-5 birds) to 13 June (15 birds) with an impressive peak of at least 55-60 birds on 25 May, followed by 30+ on 27 May, and 25+ on 29 May.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER. *Calidris bairdii*. This very rare spring shorebird could not be found at the lakes in spring when Wilson (1962, 1969) and others reported the species several times. Small numbers were observed at McElroy during fall migration, when the species is more widespread and numerous, as follows: 8-22 August (1a), and from 2 September (4j) to 16 September (2j) with a peak count of 6-10j on 4 September. As with several other shorebirds, these records apparently represent the first for sc Ky in fall since Wilson (1962, 1969) reported the species only in spring.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER. *Calidris melanotos*. This common shorebird was observed at both lakes during both spring and fall migration. In spring it was seen from 25 March (6 birds at Chaney) to 25 May (1 bird at McElroy) with a peak count of 100+ birds at McElroy 20 April-5 May. In fall the species was recorded from 16 July (12+u on a pond near McElroy) to 16 September (15+u at McElroy) and 7 October (10-15u at Chaney) with peak counts at McElroy of 150-200 birds on 6 August, 300-350 birds 20-22 August, 150-200 through 2 September, and 100+ through 8 September.

DUNLIN. *Calidris alpina*. This uncommon transient was observed in small numbers at McElroy during spring migration from 5 May (4 birds) to 29 May (1 bird) with a peak count of five birds on 20 May. McElroy dried up before Dunlins began returning on southward migration, but a single bird was observed with other shorebirds at Chaney on 7 October. Although this latter observation apparently represents only the second fall record reported for the vicinity of the Woodburn lakes (Wilson 1962), the species should be regular in sc Ky in late fall.

STILT SANDPIPER. *Calidris himantopus*. This relatively uncommon shorebird was observed at McElroy during spring migration and at both lakes during fall migration. In spring it was seen at McElroy 20-27 May with a peak count on the former date of 13 birds, including an individual color-marked with wing tags and leg bands. Inquiry with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the origin of the bird yielded information that it had been tagged and banded in Puerto Rico! During fall migration the species was recorded from 22 July (3-4a at Chaney, 2a at McElroy) to 12 September at McElroy (20+j) and 7 October at Chaney (2u) with a peak count of 30-35 birds (most juv's) at McElroy 2-8 September. The Stilt Sandpiper was reported by Wilson (1962) only rarely and in small numbers at the Woodburn lakes.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER. *Tryngites subruficollis*. This uncommon shorebird was observed during fall migration at McElroy from 22 August (1 bird) to 16 September (6+ birds) with a peak of no less than 16 birds on 4 September. All individuals appeared to be juveniles. Wilson (1962) reported this species from sc Ky on the basis of only two observations (neither from the lakes). Thus, these observations represent the first for this species from the Woodburn lakes. In addition, the peak count ties the largest number to have ever been reported anywhere in the state.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER. *Limnodromus griseus*. This species was present on both lakes during both spring and fall migration. In spring, small groups of Short-billed Dowitchers (2-4 birds) were present (mostly at McElroy) 5-20 May. Boggs noted a dowitcher at McElroy as late as 23 May that was probably this species, although call notes could not be heard to confirm its identity. All other observations of this species in spring were confirmed with call notes. The Short-billed Dowitcher migration peaks earlier in fall than the Long-billed, and Short-billeds were present (mostly at McElroy) 4 July (1a) to 12 September (8-10j) with a peak of 25-30 birds (all juveniles) on 2 September. Most fall sightings were confirmed with call notes, although some involved noting only plumage characters, especially of juveniles.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER. *Limnodromus scolopaceus*. The opportunity for increasing knowledge about the occurrence of migratory shorebirds in Kentucky afforded by the presence of the Woodburn lakes throughout much of 1989 was perhaps no better exemplified than by observations of the Long-billed Dowitcher. For a species represented in Mengel's *Birds of Kentucky* by only two specimen records, the number of records of this poorly known species made at the lakes in 1989 is truly remarkable. In spring, the species showed up in Kentucky during a brief but very pronounced movement lasting about a week from late April into early May. During this period, Long-billed Dowitchers were observed at both lakes as follows: five birds (some heard calling, all feeding together) at Chaney on 29 April; a surprisingly large group of 22 birds (only call notes heard in the flock were Long-billed) at McElroy also on 29 April; and 10 birds (all similarly marked, only call notes heard were Long-billed) at McElroy on 5 May. The species was present in fall only at McElroy, where a pair of early adults was identified by both sight and call notes (only one called) on 6 August. During 20-22 August, another very dark-backed adult was identified by sight. Although the identification was not confirmed with call notes, the dark back and orange-buff underparts, coarsely marked with barring on the sides of the breast and flanks, served to identify this individual with certainty. Finally, on 10 September, an adult that appeared to be in full winter plumage was closely studied and heard calling at McElroy. These fall records represent most of only a few for the state of the seldom-encountered, early-migrating adults of this species. The juveniles, which usually far outnumber adults, are most often the ones encountered in Kentucky in fall after their late departure from the nesting grounds. It is probable that if the lakes had persisted well into October, a number of sightings of juveniles would have been obtained later in the season. Dr. Wilson did not distinguish between the two dowitcher species, so these records represent the first documented for the Woodburn lakes and apparently sc Ky.

COMMON SNIBE. *Gallinago gallinago*. This fairly common shorebird was observed at both lakes during both spring and fall migration. The species was present in spring from 11 March (3 birds at Chaney) to 14 May (2 birds at Chaney) with a peak of ca. 50+ birds on 17 March at McElroy.

A single bird was studied closely on 19 June along a ditch at McElroy, and all field marks were noted. This highly unusual sighting represents the state's first June record. The species was present in fall from the early date of 13 August (1 bird at McElroy) to 16 September (2 birds at McElroy) and 7 October (10+ birds at Chaney) with a peak of 6-10 birds at McElroy during September. Snipe were conspicuous by their presence in numbers (no less than 6-8 birds) at McElroy during latter August, well before the species is usually noted at all in Kentucky.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE. *Phalaropus tricolor*. This rare to uncommon shorebird was not observed in spring at the lakes, but a good flight was noted in fall from 6 August (1u) to 10 September (2j) with a peak of no less than five birds and perhaps up to 8-10 (most or all juveniles), 20-27 August. Although Wilson (1962) listed a few records of this species from the lakes in spring, he did not report the species from sc Ky in fall.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE. *Phalaropus lobatus*. Three separate observations of this very rare shorebird were made at McElroy in 1989, including the state's first spring and mid-summer records, making for one of the highlights of the year. A probable female in nearly full breeding plumage was observed 20 and 23 May (photographed on 20th; see KW 66:29-30, 1990); a female in full breeding plumage (assumed to be an early fall migrant) was observed swimming on the open water with ducks and picking food off the water surface on 4 July; finally, a probable juvenile molting into winter plumage was present 10-12 September. Wilson (1962, 1969) did not list this species from sc Ky.

FRANKLIN'S GULL. *Larus pipixcan*. A sub-adult bird was observed flying over McElroy on 20 May. This individual apparently arrived while a group of us was birding at the lake. It flew around for ca. ten minutes before departing, accompanied by several Ring-billed Gulls that had been perched on a point for some time. Wilson (1962, 1969) did not list this species from sc Ky.

BONAPARTE'S GULL. *Larus philadelphia*. This small gull was observed a few times at McElroy in spring: four adults, 15-18 March; and 1-2 first-year birds, 5-7 May. Wilson (1962, 1969) listed only eight records from sc Ky, apparently all from the lakes.

RING-BILLED GULL. *Larus delawarensis*. This fairly widespread gull was observed at McElroy in small numbers 15-23 March (3-15 birds) and 29 April through 20 May (1-8 birds).

HERRING GULL. *Larus argentatus*. This large, uncommon gull was seen on three occasions at McElroy 15, 18 and 23 March (3-4 birds). In addition, four birds (3 first-year, 1 second-year) were present on McElroy on the stormy afternoon of 5 May. When thunderstorms cleared late in the day, these birds circled off to the north.

CASPIAN TERN. *Sterna caspia*. This uncommon to fairly common transient was not observed at the lakes in spring, but small flocks were observed at McElroy on 2 September (4 birds) and 4 September (9 birds). Interestingly, these flocks were observed on both dates only for brief periods as they coursed back and forth over the lake several times before moving on, apparently unable to find suitable food and not needing to rest. Although Wilson (1962) listed three spring records for McElroy, he apparently never observed the species at the lakes in fall.

COMMON TERN. *Sterna hirundo*. Five birds were observed flying

over McElroy on the evening of 5 May for a rare spring record from the region. This species was reported by Wilson (1962, 1969) in sc Ky on only a few occasions.

FORSTER'S TERN. *Sterna forsteri*. This uncommon to fairly common transient was present at McElroy during both spring and fall migration. In spring the species was first observed by Boggs on the early date of 30 March (2 birds), and then on a few dates from 30 April (3 birds) to 20 May (1 bird). Six birds were observed at McElroy on 6 August for our only fall record. Curiously, Wilson (1962, 1969) listed only two records for this species in sc Ky.

BLACK TERN. *Chlidonias niger*. This uncommon to fairly common transient was well-represented at both lakes during both spring and fall migration. Some of the larger flocks to be reported in the state in some years were present at McElroy during peak migratory movements in late May and early August. In spring the species was first seen at McElroy by Boggs on the extremely early date of 15 March (2 adults), some six weeks before the species is normally expected to be observed in Kentucky. Afterwards, the species was present at McElroy from 5 May (9 birds) to 29 May (3 birds) with a peak of ca. 90-100 birds on 26 May. A pair of adults was observed foraging over McElroy on 13 June for a rare "mid-summer" record. The species was observed at both lakes in fall from 22 July (2 birds at Chaney) to 10 September (8 birds at McElroy) with peaks of 60 birds at Chaney and 125+ birds at McElroy on 6 August (most or all birds adults). Wilson (1962) observed the Black Tern often at the transient lakes, including a few dates in June.

Other species of interest:

OSPREY. *Pandion haliaetus*. An Osprey was observed foraging over McElroy on 2 and 4 September. On the latter date, it was observed eating a small bullhead catfish that it had just caught. Another or the same individual was observed soaring over Chaney on 16 September.

MERLIN. *Falco columbarius*. A female or immature Merlin was at McElroy on 22 April and 5 May (perhaps the same bird). On the latter date, the bird crossed the lake amidst a cloud of mobbing swallows and landed in a dead snag in the top of a tree in perfect light of a late afternoon sun. After perching for ca. five minutes and being harassed by a pair of Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), the bird headed off in a westerly direction (perhaps to Chaney). These observations represent two of only a handful of published spring records for this rare falcon, a majority having come from the lakes in previous years (Wilson 1962, 1969).

PEREGRINE FALCON. *Falco peregrinus*. Single individuals of this rare raptor were observed at McElroy on 27 May (sub-adult) and 3, 8 and 13 August (immature — same bird also at Chaney on 3 August).

HORNED LARK. *Eremophila alpestris*. Small numbers were present throughout our period of study with up to 50 or more birds present in late winter and early spring in the fields surrounding McElroy. A few immatures were observed being accompanied by adults in the bare areas surrounding McElroy in early summer.

SWALLOWS. Swallows were abundant at the lakes during both spring and late summer. Emerging aquatic insects provided a wealth of food, and it was not uncommon for several hundred individuals of one or more species to be present. Noteworthy observations at McElroy included concentrations in early April (1000+ Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*),

500+ Purple Martins (*Progne subis*), 200+ Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*), and 100+ Cliff Swallows (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*); early May (1000+ birds, mostly Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) and Barn Swallows with good numbers of Purple Martins, at least a dozen Tree Swallows and at least one Cliff Swallow); and August (500+ Banks, small numbers of Cliff, Tree, Barn and martins). Curiously, Northern Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) were usually the least numerous in the area. The late summer concentration of Bank Swallows was reminiscent of assemblages typical of post-breeding flocks in the immediate vicinity of nesting colonies. Presently, nesting of the Bank Swallow is unknown in Kentucky away from the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. A nearly complete albino Barn Swallow was seen on several occasions at McElroy 6 August-10 September.

SEDGE WREN. *Cistothorus platensis*. A single individual sang from a weedy hayfield at McElroy for several weeks in July and early August, and one was flushed from this same area on 7 October, but no evidence of nesting was observed.

WATER PIPIT. *Anthus spinoletta*. This fairly common transient was observed in good numbers at both lakes in spring. The species was present from 19 March (7 birds at McElroy) to 14 May (1 bird at Chaney) with peak counts of at least 150 birds at McElroy on 25 March and as many as 50-75 still there on 29-30 April. Although the lakes were all but gone well before the time most fall migrant pipits arrived, 3-4 birds were observed feeding with shorebirds along the shallow pools at Chaney on 7 October.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW. *Ammodramus caudacutus*. A beautiful individual of the inland race, *A. c. nelsoni*, was studied virtually at leisure by members of a Beckham Bird Club field trip on 20 May for the state's first verified spring record. Further details have been published separately (see KW 66:30-31, 1989).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR. *Calcarius lapponicus*. Two birds were seen and heard calling as they passed over McElroy on 25 March. This species was reported by Wilson (1962) as a rare winter resident or visitant in sc Ky.

BOBOLINK. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. Bobolinks were observed on several occasions in the hayfields adjacent to McElroy in May. Flocks of up to 75 or more individuals were seen on at least two occasions. In fall, a few Bobolinks were heard or seen in weedy areas along the shore of McElroy on several dates 2 September-7 October.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD. *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. The open farmland surrounding McElroy attracted large numbers of blackbirds in late winter and spring. Among the mixed flocks were small numbers of this poorly known species. The species was seen March 25 (ca. 12 birds), 1 April (ca. 15-20 birds), and 10 April (9 birds). Although Wilson (1962) originally listed only four records for sc Ky. his later summary of additions (Wilson 1969) includes eight more records. This species is probably regular in the open farmland of this area, at least during early spring.

This concludes our summary of bird observations from the transient lakes in 1989. We would like to thank the local landowners of the area, who showed an enthusiastic interest in the waterbirds of the lakes and cooperated willingly in allowing us access to them. We know that we speak for all of those who were able to observe birds at McElroy Lake when we

express a special gratitude to Mr. Joe Neal Ballance for allowing us unlimited access to the area surrounding the lake throughout the season. At Chaney Lake, Mr. and Mrs. James Hunley and the Stahl family were also very cooperative in allowing us to observe waterbirds from their properties, as well. We are also indebted to Mr. Glen Conner, State Climatologist, for supplying data on precipitation for the Bowling Green area.

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- 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, 40222 (Palmer-Ball) and 568 Hammett Hill, Bowling Green, 42101 (Boggs).

FIELD NOTES

CINNAMON TEAL IN DAVIESS COUNTY, KENTUCKY

While birding on 6 April 1991 in the company of Burt L. Monroe, Jr. and my wife Tanya, I observed a pair of Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) in eastern Daviess County, Kentucky. At about 1:15 p.m. EST we were travelling along Iceland Road, approximately seven miles northeast of Owensboro, when Monroe noticed a flock of ducks on the ground and we stopped to look at them. Sixty or more ducks were sitting along the banks of a small stream running through a field, and we saw immediately that most of them were Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*).

Monroe first noted the male Cinnamon Teal sitting with the Blue-winged Teal, and all three of us quickly identified it using our binoculars. I then watched the bird through a 20x spotting scope while Monroe attempted unsuccessfully to videotape it. We all had good views of the rich reddish-brown plumage of the head, neck, breast, and left side of the male. With the scope, I could see its reddish irides as well.

I identified the female Cinnamon Teal as she sat beside the male and near several Blue-winged Teal of both sexes. Both Cinnamon Teal had slightly but distinctly longer bills than the Blue-winged Teal around them, with more spatulate upper mandibles. The female's facial pattern was

plainer than that of nearby Blue-winged Teal, apparently lacking a stripe behind the eye. Also, the mottled brown plumage of her neck, breast, and left side appeared more richly colored than comparable areas on the female Blue-winged Teal.

Both Cinnamon Teal, as well as the Blue-winged Teal they accompanied, appeared quite wary, and small groups of Blue-winged Teal flushed repeatedly as we observed the flock. The Cinnamon Teal flushed twice, the second time flying out of sight to the west about 20 minutes after we had initially seen them. While the male was in flight, we could see the light blue patches formed by his upperwing coverts as well as his green speculum.

This represents the fourth Kentucky record of the Cinnamon Teal (Monroe, Stamm, and Palmer-Ball, *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*, p. 10; KW 66:47, 1990); as well as the first record of a female or of more than one individual of the species occurring together in the state.

— C. MICHAEL STINSON, Biology Department, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40292.

MORTALITY OF MIGRANT BIRDS AT TWO CENTRAL KENTUCKY TV TOWERS

Published information on mortality of nocturnal migrants in Kentucky is practically nonexistent. Lovell (*The Kentucky Warbler* 28:5-6, 1952) reported a kill of more than 75 birds at the Standiford Field ceilometer at Louisville on 7 October 1951. Carpenter and Lovell (*The Kentucky Warbler* 39:19-21, 1963) reported on an unusual mortality that occurred at a gas-compressor station near Magnolia, Larue County on 25 September 1962. Two hundred and seventy individuals of 30 species were identified as a result of this incident. Palmer-Ball and Rauth (*The Kentucky Warbler* 66:97-98, 1990) recently reported on a television transmission tower kill at Henderson, Henderson County on 21 September 1990 involving 128 individuals of 20 species. Details of bird-kills at two additional TV towers in central Kentucky, WGRB-Campbellsville and WAVE-Louisville, are included in the following article.

The WGRB tower is located approximately four miles north of Columbia, Adair County along KY 55. Construction was completed in March 1983, and the station started broadcasting on 7 April 1983. The tower is 1,000 feet tall (950 ft. with a 50 ft. antenna) and triangular in cross section. It is supported by three sets of nine guy wires that extend out to the east, northwest and southwest. The tower is situated on a small knob in moderately rolling terrain at approximately 900 feet elevation. The surrounding land is entirely rural farmland.

The WAVE tower is located along US 42, approximately 20 miles northeast of Louisville near Westport, Oldham County. It was constructed during the spring and summer of 1990 and is 1,739 feet tall. Like the WGRB tower, it is also supported by three sets of guy wires. The tower is located in rolling uplands of approximately 800 feet elevation. The surrounding land is predominately rural farmland.

Visits to the WGRB tower have been made on numerous occasions since 1983, primarily by Elmore. Although visits typically have yielded no observations of dead birds, substantial kills (number of individuals/number of species) have been observed on the following dates: 8 May 1983 (55/16), 14 May 1983 (62/16), 11 October 1986 (113/35), and 17 October 1990

(1576-+/59). During the fall of 1990, Palmer-Ball made several visits to the WAVE tower and documented a substantial kill on 20 October 1990 (133/36). Table 1 summarizes observations from these five kills. Additional less significant kills were noted at the WGRB tower on two dates and at the WAVE tower on one. Elmore did not keep notes from a kill of several dozen birds noted on 22 October 1988 that included a male Black-throated Blue Warbler and an adult Virginia Rail. On 24 September 1989, he found 50 Swainson's Thrushes and a Bobolink there, but interestingly, no other species were observed. Palmer-Ball noted four warblers of three species, including a Blackpoll Warbler, at the WAVE tower on 23 September 1990.

On all visits to the towers, searches for casualties were carefully conducted over the surrounding area. Though considerable effort was made to find all casualties, it is certain that some specimens were missed due to the tall grass on some portions of the tower grounds. Each bird was identified and tallied on a master list. Carcasses were usually picked up and deposited in sacks or placed in piles to avoid duplication of counts. There was usually evidence of predation (scattered feathers and partially eaten carcasses) at both towers. Although cats and dogs may have been

Table 1. Significant bird kills recorded at the WGRB and WAVE towers.

Species	5-08-83 WGRB	5-14-83 WGRB	10-11-86 WGRB	10-17-90 WGRB	10-20-90 WAVE
Sora	—	—	—	1	1 *
Black-billed Cuckoo	—	—	—	2	—
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	—	—	—	1*	—
Chimney Swift	—	—	—	1	—
Red-headed Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	1 *
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	—	—	—	3	1
Northern Flicker	—	—	1	—	—
Eastern Wood-Pewee	—	—	—	1	—
Brown Creeper	—	—	1	1*	—
House Wren	—	—	—	1	1
Winter Wren	—	—	4	3	—
Marsh Wren	—	—	—	4	—
Golden-crowned Kinglet	—	—	7	7	8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	—	—	6	3	3
kinglet sp.	—	—	—	1	—
Veery	—	1	1	1	—
Gray-cheeked Thrush	—	—	2	16	1
Swainson's Thrush	8	2	2	86 (1L)	2
Hermit Thrush	—	—	1	5	—
Wood Thrush	1	—	6	28	5
thrush sp.	—	—	—	10	1
Gray Catbird	—	4	4	48	9
White-eyed Vireo	—	—	—	3	—
Solitary Vireo	—	—	—	2	1 **
Yellow-throated Vireo	—	—	1	4	—
Philadelphia Vireo	—	1	1	14	2
Red-eyed Vireo	12	35	2	72	7
Blue-winged Warbler	—	—	—	1	—
Golden-winged Warbler	—	—	1	1	—
Tennessee Warbler	1	2	7	137	5
Nashville Warbler	—	—	4	1	2

Species	5-08-83 WGRB	5-14-83 WGRB	10-11-86 WGRB	10-17-90 WGRB	10-20-90 WAVE
Northern Parula	—	—	1 L	3	—
Yellow Warbler	1	—	—	1	—
Chestnut-sided Warbler	—	2	1	34	4
Magnolia Warbler	2	1	14	97 (1L)	7
Cape May Warbler	1	—	—	3	—
Black-throated Blue Warbler	—	—	—	5	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	—	2	6	7
Black-thr. Green Warbler	—	—	4	69	5
Blackburnian Warbler	1	5	—	23	—
Yellow-throated Warbler	—	—	—	2	—
Pine Warbler	—	—	2	5	1
Palm Warbler	—	—	1	46	16
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	2	4	213 (2L)	1
Blackpoll Warbler	3	—	—	4	—
Black-and-white Warbler	—	—	—	30	1
American Redstart	—	1	5	6	—
Worm-eating Warbler	—	—	—	2	—
Swainson's Warbler	—	—	—	1	—
Ovenbird	1	1	13	376 (2L)	10
Northern Waterthrush	—	—	—	9	—
Common Yellowthroat	—	1	4	52	7
Kentucky Warbler	10	—	—	—	—
Connecticut Warbler	—	—	—	—	1
Hooded Warbler	—	—	1	21	—
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	1	—	1	1
warbler sp.	—	—	—	—	3
Scarlet Tanager	—	2	2	24	1
Summer Tanager	1	—	—	—	—
Northern Cardinal	—	—	—	1	—
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	—	—	—	13	1
Indigo Bunting	—	1	4	46	—
Savannah Sparrow	—	—	—	14	—
Grasshopper Sparrow	—	—	—	1	—
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	—	—	—	—	1 **
Field Sparrow	—	—	1	—	1 **
Chipping Sparrow	—	—	1	—	—
Song Sparrow	—	—	—	1	—
Lincoln's Sparrow	—	—	—	—	4 (2**)
Swamp Sparrow	—	—	1	7	2
White-throated Sparrow	—	—	1	2	1 *
White-crowned Sparrow	—	—	—	—	1
unidentified	10	—	—	—	5
Number of species	16	16	35	59	36
Number of individuals	55	62	113	1576	133
Probable date of majority of kill	1st wk May	14 May	1st wk Oct.	12 Oct.	12 Oct.

* — condition of specimen(s) indicated probably killed prior to probable date given.

** — condition of specimen(s) indicated probably killed subsequent to probable date given.

L.— bird(s) found alive.

the primary culprits, the possibility of raptors could not be ruled out. Invertebrates, especially ants and slugs, were also quick to find the bird carcasses. On some dates, specimens were in excellent condition and were frozen for future museum skin preparation.

Weather conditions prior to tower visits were usually recorded. The spring 1983 visits to the WGRB tower were made after periods of overcast days, accompanied by intermittent rain, sometimes heavy. Showers associated with a passing cold front on the night of 7 May 1983, dropped more than three-quarters of an inch of rain and were accompanied by a drop in temperatures into the mid-40s. An overcast and rainy day and night preceded the 14 May 1983 visit, with over an inch of precipitation on 13 May. While most specimens were in poor condition on 8 May, many were in excellent condition on 14 May. The October 1990 kill at the WGRB tower was by far the most substantial. Most or all mortality apparently occurred during the night of 11-12 October 1990 (*fide* Mike Harding, Station Manager) with some minor kill possibly occurring subsequently through the night of 16-17 October 1990. None of the carcasses appeared to have been exposed to general rainfall that occurred 10-11 October prior to passage of a cold front. Most carcasses found at the WAVE tower on 20 October were at least several days old, and it is probable that most mortality occurred during the same night of 11-12 October that caused for the large mortality at WGRB.

As seems to be characteristic of most reports of tower mortality in the eastern United States, significant kills were somewhat similar, although each had several noteworthy aspects. Of the two spring kills at WGRB in 1983, it is interesting that 40% of all birds found (47 of 117) were Red-eyed Vireos. In contrast, they made up less than 5 % of fall kills there (74 of 1689). Warblers made up 33% of all birds found in the spring at WGRB (39 of 117) but 72% of all birds found there in the fall (1210 of 1689). The total of ten Kentucky Warblers found on 8 May 1983 represented a surprising 25% of the warblers.

We were somewhat unprepared for the magnitude of the October 1990 kill at the WGRB tower, but it is surprisingly comparable in numbers of individuals and variety of species to some of the more significant kills we could find in literature accounts. The total list had several noteworthy occurrences including the Swainson's Warbler and the late Yellow Warbler. In addition, the high numbers of several species was astonishing; these included five Black-throated Blue Warblers, five Pine Warblers, four Blackpoll Warblers and 21 Hooded Warblers. As noted in Table 1, at least six birds were observed alive and injured at the tower on 14 October. The total of 1576 birds does not include an undetermined number of specimens picked up and disposed of by TV station staff prior to Elmore's initial visit on the 14th, nor does it include additional specimens (number uncertain, perhaps as many as several hundred) that were probably present, but that we did not find because we ran out of time.

The WAVE tower kill in mid-October 1990 yielded several noteworthy records. The Connecticut Warbler and Sharp-tailed Sparrow were especially unusual; the latter represents the first specimen record for the state.

It is unfortunate that the presence of large TV transmission towers presents such a hazard to nocturnal migrant birds. However, the opportunity to gain useful scientific information as a result of these events should not be ignored, and every effort should be made to check towers regularly during migration. We would like to thank Mr. Bryan McFarland (former) and Mr. Michael Harding (current) station managers for

34-WGRB TV, Campbellsville and Mr. Guy Hempel, station manager for WAVE-3 TV, Louisville, for their cooperation in allowing us to conduct these investigations.

—Jackie B. Elmore, Sr., 1940 Heaton-Ford Road, Science Hill, 42553 and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville 40222.

BOOK REVIEW

AN ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF TENNESSEE, by John C. Robinson. Published by the University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee. 284 pp., \$29.95. 1990.

This publication is important to those interested in ornithological studies in Tennessee. The author formerly was assistant refuge manager at Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge in Dover, Tennessee and is now a wildlife biologist for the USDA Forest Service in Hayward, Wisconsin. He follows the pattern of other checklist authors in providing information on all bird species reported in the state (373 species) and brief information as to the time of year, region of the state, and habitat in which to expect each species. He also provides early and late arrival and departure dates for each species in each of the three regions of the state (west, middle, and east Tennessee). He describes the topographic regions, and maps showing the geographic and topographic divisions, counties, and the locations of the 42 breeding survey routes are included.

The publication is more than an annotated checklist. Interesting accounts of the history of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and the history of the state bird list are given. Birding activities in the state are provided, including the breeding bird atlas project, annual autumn hawk counts, bird banding activities, Christmas bird counts, and breeding bird surveys. A table shows breeding bird species on the increase and on the decline. Classification includes the order, family, scientific name, and common name of each species.

The status of each species is based on the number of times seen in the state in the past 20 years (since 1968). Robinson gives more precise definitions of status and abundance (frequency of occurrence) than do most writers of similar works. As an example his definition of Extremely Rare is as follows: "Species recorded in the state at least six times, with 3-15 records in the past 20 years (i.e., seen once every few years, or less)." Other status terms are Regular, Irregular, Accidental; Extirpated, Extinct, Escape, Provisional, and Hypothetical; each of these terms is precisely defined. Thirty-three species have been selected for presentation on maps showing counties in which a species is known to breed or the counties in which a species has been reported. Evidence that each of the 373 species has been recorded in Tennessee is given under the heading, substantiation; this is usually in the form of a collected specimen but may also consist of a photograph, sound recording, or acceptable documented sight record. This information will be of little interest to most readers.

K.O.S. members will probably be interested in comparing this publication with the Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky (reviewed in *The Kentucky Warbler*, Vol. 65, No. 3, August, 1989). Both publications are excellent and provide the information for which they are intended. This writer prefers the bar graphs in the Kentucky checklist for summarizing the occurrence and abundance of each species, but Tennessee readers may prefer the listing of the date and locality of arrivals and

departures for each species in each of the three regions of Tennessee. This procedure greatly increases the length and expense of the Tennessee publication: I also prefer the smaller size and the paperback construction of the Kentucky checklist, making it easier to carry into the field or insert in a field guide. The Tennessee checklist is 200 pages longer and provides much more ornithological information.

In summary, ornithologists and particularly those interested in the birdlife of Tennessee are indebted to John C. Robinson for a thorough, precise account of birds and birding in Tennessee.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. FALL MEETING

The fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held on September 27-29, 1991 at Pine Mountain State Resort Park. Members planning to attend should make reservations for room accommodations as soon as possible. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening meeting should contact Lee McNeely, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, Kentucky 41005. Members are encouraged to bring one or two slides for the photo-quiz portion of the Friday evening program.